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**DRAFT #1**

**HUNTER MILL ROAD AREA  
SPECIAL STUDY**

**VISION DOCUMENT**

**Prepared for:**

Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study Task Force  
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning  
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**Section 1.....Introduction**

**Section 2.....Project Background**

**Section 3.....Comment Summary and Analysis**

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## Introduction

**THIS IS A DRAFT OF THE REPORT AND DOES NOT YET INCLUDE ALL INFORMATION IN MANY SECTIONS. A MORE COMPLETE DRAFT WILL BE AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 4, 2005.**

This Vision Document is the result of an eight-week public engagement process initiated by the Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study Task Force and the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning. In September 2005 CirclePoint was hired to create a forum to elicit comments from the public on the future of the Special Study area and convey that information to the Task Force. Our primary goal is to reinforce or build the bridge between the public and policy officials. This Vision Document does not include recommendations by the consultants on what the Task Force, Planning Commission or Board ultimately should do about the study area. Many public comments, however, do. There are specific recommendations from the consultant on how to continue improving the interface between the County and the public.

This document is organized into eight sections and an Appendix that includes several documents and materials. The sections are:

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Project Background

Section 3: Comment Summary and Analysis

Section 4: Public Engagement Plan

Section 5: Stakeholder Participation

Section 6: Visioning Workshop

Section 7: Open House

Section 8: Focus Groups

Appendices

## Project Background

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In general terms, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan describes the Upper Potomac Planning District as suburban and low-density neighborhoods surrounding suburban centers. The plan goes further to say that if there is any further development it will need to be planned to protect stable neighborhoods while maintaining employment, shopping and recreation opportunities. The question is if there is development, what would it look like?

There are differing opinions of what the area should look like in the twenty- to thirty-year horizon. This is evidenced by the diversity of nominations for changes to the Comprehensive Plan that have been submitted since 1997 to the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors and the response of the public to those proposals. The proposals in very different ways address intensity, density, and separation of land uses. As a result the county planning staff recommended to the Board of Supervisors the creation of a special study area, which necessitates the community engagement process developed and implemented by CirclePoint.

So far no consensus has emerged that addresses what needs to happen. In fact, communication among the residents, county leaders and development community has become increasingly contentious. The controversy is related to issues, but it is also with the process by which the County is making decisions as to whether or not the Comprehensive Plan needs revisions.

## Comment Summary and Analysis

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### Overview

There were 15 questions in the visioning exercise and in nearly all groups, regardless of the question, someone (or several people) communicated a very strong preference for no change on the current Comprehensive Plan. While very common that was by no means unanimous.

The information below represents a preliminary analysis of the public comments from the visioning workshop.

### **Major Themes**

1. Strategically managing and leveraging growth
2. Protecting neighborhood character
3. Maintaining the quantity and quality of public services
4. Creating a range of housing options
5. Creating new and upgrading existing recreational facilities
6. Improving environmental resources and health
7. Focusing investment in public facilities
8. Promoting economic expansion
9. Preserving historic resources
10. Providing greater mobility and connectivity
11. Changing and strengthening the public's role in decision making

Several issues and themes seem packed within the “no growth, no change in the comprehensive plan” sentiment. What many of the other comments also suggest is a great deal of fear and mistrust. This commentary identifies issues that are not but perhaps need discussion regardless of a decision to maintain the status quo in the Comprehensive Plan.

A sense of fear appears to exist and its cause may be that if there is any negotiation in the Hunter Mill Road area, a couple of things could occur:

- a) It will lead to additional incremental changes that will ultimately require re-negotiation, further compromise and potentially adverse affects on the quality of life in the area and
- b) Any agreement is not durable and will not withstand a change in the elected leadership or pressure on the elected leadership to develop further to accommodate growth.

Those dynamics create unpredictability about how the land is used and preserved.

There are some discrete issues that are specific to the Hunter Mill Road area, such as the traffic management at interchanges along Sunset Hills Road, traffic calming along Hunter Mill Road and providing better access and safety along the Washington and Old Dominion Trail. The breakout group discussions revealed that there is not one way to address any of these issues.

Groups struggled with how to give appropriate weight to the comments of those most directly impacted by any change in or build out of the existing Comprehensive Plan as opposed to those who benefit from any change or build out. The latter group includes, for example, people seeking affordable places to live, people who want to live in more pedestrian- and transit-focused communities, as well as people who seek financial returns on land investments.

The county convened the visioning workshop and like any public meeting it is subject to sunshine laws. It is illegal to exclude from the workshop anyone. Many Hunter Mill Road corridor residents expressed concerns about how the visioning process would give greater priority to their comments over those who did not live within the corridor. Despite this concern, it was clear that people were not trying to intentionally exclude others.

The comments imply frustration with the lack of access by the public to the task force and elected leadership, which has made a discussion of the vision extremely difficult. Visioning invites people to articulate what they want. The limits of the visioning process, primarily a lack of time, raise the stakes for any opportunity to be heard, so it often becomes more important to say what is unacceptable and list the things that are not wanted. Given these circumstances it is understandable that people are angry and frustrated.

The study became heavily focused on the process and less so on the issues. There is a divergence of opinion on whether the study was justified and secondly how best to organize it. This has expectedly caused level of unproductive conflict to spiral upward, which may obscure the positive benefits on conflict in the public policy arena, as well as the positive aspects of the endeavor.

Going back to the framing issue, people seem to recognize that the question is not either/or; rather it is “How do we strategically manage and leverage growth AND protect neighborhood character AND maintain the quantity and quality of public services AND promote economic expansion, etc. The reality is that if there were easy solutions to these problems this meeting would be unnecessary.

### **Unanswered Challenges**

These observations suggest two challenges: 1) what to talk about and 2) how to talk about it.

### **What**

Should the discussion be framed with the premise that solutions to regional and countywide problems often yield regional and countywide benefits but create specific local impacts? Decisions made in areas contiguous to the Hunter Mill Road corridor will eventually impact those who live in the corridor.

Where is it possible to start a conversation that anticipates those discussions and decisions?

How can this area create contingencies to manage an uncertain future?

How can the area achieve a reasonable balance between the benefit/impact equation?

Is smart growth worth considering? If so, how can people start at the same place on what defines “smart growth?”

What types of design standards preserve and complement the character of existing neighborhoods?

There is not an unlimited reserve of vacant land for new housing to meet projected needs, what is best use of what is available to create a range of housing options within the county?

How are housing options created and improved—where, what kind, what portion should reflect market rates?

How is it best to address the current backlog of infrastructure and public facility needs with the current population? Is limiting density a viable approach?

How can expected population growth successfully address objectives associated with stormwater management, water quality, open and green space, air quality, etc.?

How can you manage the trade offs between limited land and the need for more recreation areas?

What level of investment in public transportation makes sense and for which modes?

What are the ways to maintain the quality of education and ease and prevent future overcrowding?

**How**

What types of processes would allow the community, business and elected leadership to more effectively anticipate and manage the conflict associated with negotiating the inevitable trade offs in public policy decisions?

How can the civic infrastructure be strengthened so that more people in the community have the capacity and information to participate in the decision-making processes?

What steps can be taken to integrate planning, development and decision making?

Where to start?

## VISION DOCUMENT

### Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study

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## Section 3 Comment Summary and Analysis

The compilation of all comments is in the Appendix \_\_\_\_.

### Comment Areas

Employment

Walking, riding and biking

Transportation

Education

Environment

Housing

Faith and community services

Land use



## Public Engagement Plan

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### Purpose

The public engagement plan involved four activities for the Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study: 1) informal stakeholder meetings and interviews, 2) six stakeholder focus groups, 3) one public workshop, and 4) a final public open house. The purpose of the plan is to create a transparent forum that amplifies the voices and perspectives of those who live in the special study area, as defined by the Board of Supervisors, as well as those who work, worship, learn, play, and commute in and around the special study area.

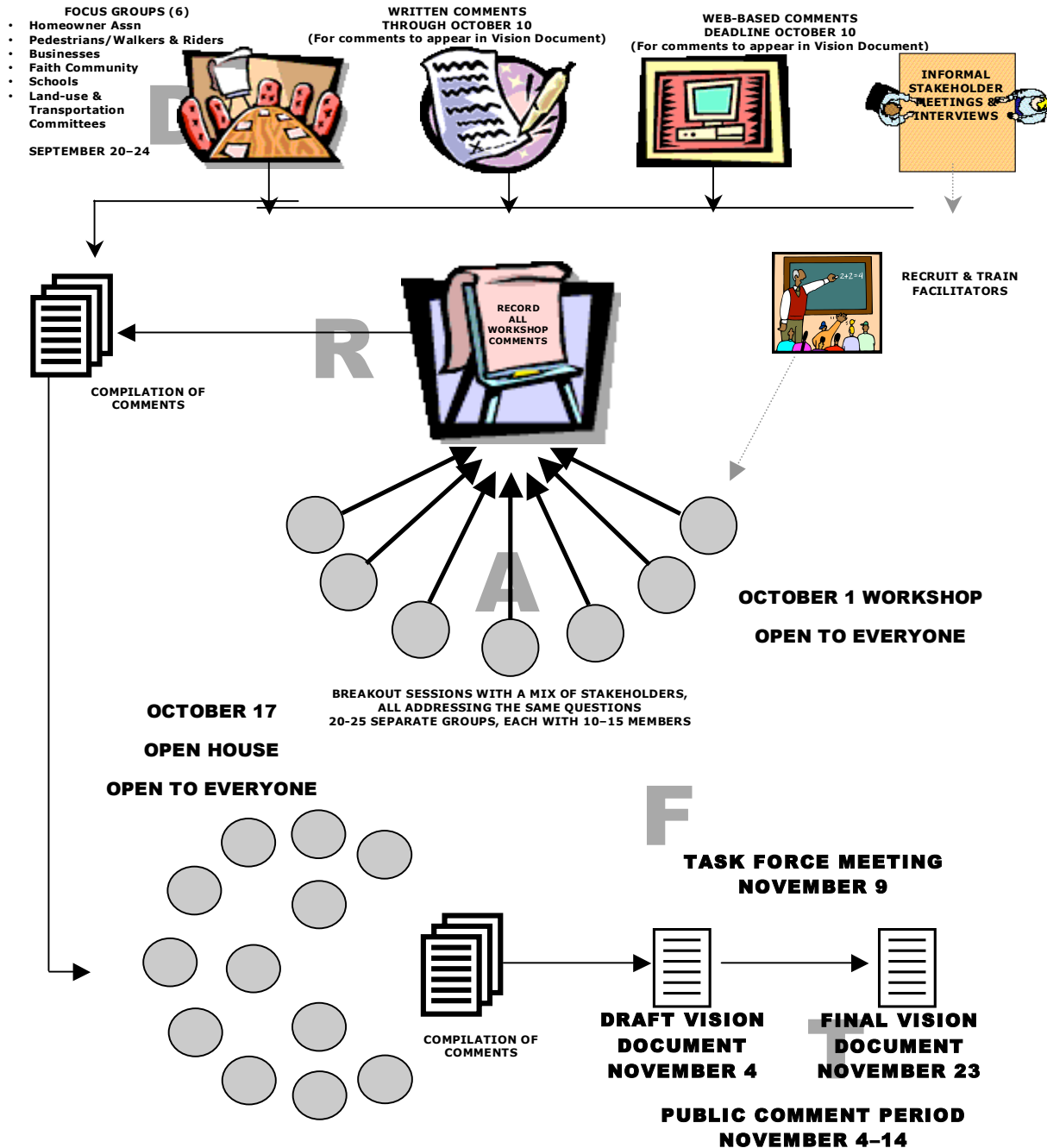
The public engagement plan has resulted in a community-generated Vision Document. The study area, defined by the Board of Supervisors, served as the primary focus of the Task Force. Participants in the visioning process, however, often-raised issues related to areas outside of, but in proximity to, the study area.

The consultant team, in collaboration with the community, will present this Vision Document to the Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study Task Force. The Task Force will consider the Vision Document and other information, facts, and historical background to develop consensus on a set of recommendations that present, to the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, options for developing the special study area.

### Key Activities

The public engagement process supported four key activities: 1) informal stakeholder meetings and interviews, 2) six stakeholder focus groups, 3) a visioning workshop, and 4) an open house. The graphic on the following page illustrates how the public engagement process worked and is followed by a detailed description of each key activity. More detailed descriptions of each activities were discussed earlier.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN



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## Stakeholder Participation

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### Visioning Workshop

According to sign-in sheets, 277 people participated in the October 1, 2005 Visioning Workshop. Of those, 273 were legible names and addresses. Sixty-seven percent of those attending the workshop identified themselves as residents who lived in the 22181 and 22182 zip codes. Both are the Vienna zip codes closest to Hunter Mill Road. Approximately 12 percent of participants claimed residency in Reston, zip codes 20190 and 20191, and six percent from Oakton, which includes the 22124 zip code. Of the remaining 40 participants, 36 are identifiably from other parts of Virginia.

### Breakout Sessions

Participants were assigned to 21 separate small breakout groups with 6 to 17 members. The assignments were random. At the registration table, each participant was provided with a name tag that included a number. The number indicated the group number to which that individual was assigned. When they arrived in their assigned groups, each participant was asked to complete the Participant Data Form and submit it to the group facilitator. The form was an attempt to address a concern expressed by several members of public that some groups may be over-represented by people who did not live in the Hunter Mill Road corridor. Underlying the concern was a fear that the weight of comments of nearby residents might be diminished.

Below is an example of the form. A summary of participants by group number is in Appendix

Zip Code	Participants
22182 - Vienna	168
20190 - Reston	26
22181 - Vienna	18
22124 - Oakton	18
20191 - Reston	7
22180	3
22101	3
22066	3
22030	3
20171	3
20121	3
22102	2
22032	2
20170	2
20165	2
20120	2
22314	1
22201	1
22194	1
22043	1
22031	1
20774	1
20168	1
20111	1
<b>Zip Code Total</b>	<b>273</b>
<b>Sign in Total</b>	<b>277</b>

# VISION DOCUMENT

## Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study

### Section 5 Stakeholder Participation

**HUNTER MILL ROAD AREA SPECIAL STUDY  
PARTICIPANT DATA FORM**

For a point of reference, please refer to the Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study boundaries in your participant package. Please select all that apply:

1. What is the zip code at your home? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the zip code at your place of employment? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you are own a business, what is the zip code of your business? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you have children in a school in or near the Hunter Mill Road Area Special? If so, please identify the school.  
☐ No ☐ Yes, school name: \_\_\_\_\_
5. How often do you bicycle in the Hunter Mill Road Area?  
☐ Daily  
☐ Weekly  
☐ Every now and then  
☐ Never
6. Do you regularly walk to (check all that apply):
7. ☐ Work?
8. ☐ School?
9. ☐ Exercise?
10. Do you worship in the Hunter Mill Road Area? If so, please name your place of worship?
11. ☐ No ☐ Yes, place of worship: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you belong to a homeowner association? If so, which one:
13. ☐ No ☐ Yes, homeowner association: \_\_\_\_\_
14. Do you belong to a civic association? If so, which one:
15. ☐ No ☐ Yes, civic association: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Are you a current or recent member of a county advisory board, commission or study group? If, so what is the name?
17. ☐ No ☐ Yes, board/commission/study group: \_\_\_\_\_
18. What is your group number? \_\_\_\_\_

### Focus Groups

Between September 28 and October 5, six stakeholder focus groups were convened. What follows is the summary of participation.

1. Homeowner Associations – 6 participants
2. Pedestrians, Bicyclists & Equestrians – 3 participants
3. School Communities – 4 participants
4. Businesses and Employers – 8 participants
5. County Advisory Boards & Commissions – 2 participants
6. Faith Communities – 3 participants

A more complete discussion of focus groups appears in Section 7.

## Visioning Workshop

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### Purpose

Approximately 277 people representing close to 20 Virginia communities attended a four-and-a-half-hour Visioning Workshop on Saturday, October 1, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive in Vienna, Virginia. The October 1 workshop was open to anyone who chose to attend. The purpose of the Visioning Workshop was to provide a forum for community members and interest groups to address the issues surrounding the future of the Hunter Mill Road area.

The workshop was structured and facilitated to manage the large number of participants and to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to make a contribution. The meeting opened with a plenary session that included presentations on the current Comprehensive Plan, existing conditions, and potential impacts of land-use concepts.

### Agenda

9:00	<b>Preliminary Activity</b>	
	• Registration	
	• Open House	
	• Refreshments	
9:30	<b>Opening</b>	
	• Meeting Purpose and Goals	
9:35	<b>Welcome</b>	W. Steve Lee Lead Facilitator CirclePoint
		Board of Supervisors Task Force
9:45	<b>Overview</b>	
	• Review Agenda	Lead Facilitator
	• Discussion Guidelines	
9:55	<b>Comprehensive Plan &amp; Existing Conditions</b>	County Staff Consultant
10:25	<b>Small Group Set-Up</b>	Lead Facilitator

**BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS**

10:35	Introductions	Group Facilitators
10:50	Reflections	
11:20	BREAK	
11:30	Ideas	
11:50	Themes	
12:30	Visions	
1:00	Strategies	
1:20	Next Steps	
1:30	ADJOURN	Group Facilitators

The breakout sessions at the Visioning Workshop were led by a group of volunteer facilitators from the community. The role of the facilitators was to:

- Refrain from contributing their own ideas. Act only as the meeting's "chauffeur."
- Remain neutral.
- Keep the group's attention focused on agenda items.
- Maintain the agreed-upon time schedule.
- Make sure everyone had a chance to participate.
- Defend others from personal attacks.

**Breakout Groups**

The workshop was organized around group breakout sessions that included between 7 and 17 people each. Participants were assigned to 21 separate small breakout groups. The assignments were random. At the registration table, each participant was provided with a name tag that included a number. The number indicated the group number to which that individual was assigned. When they arrived in their assigned groups, each participant was asked to complete a Participant Data Form and submit it to the group facilitator. The form was an attempt to address a concern expressed by several members of public that some groups may be over-represented with people who did not live in the Hunter Mill Road corridor. Underlying the concern was a fear that the weight of comments of nearby residents might be diminished.

## Evaluation of the Workshop

The compilation of evaluation comments was taken directly from the Meeting Evaluation distributed and collected at the October 1, 2005 Visioning Workshop from the approximately 277 people who attended. At the registration table, each person was provided a meeting evaluation form. At the conclusion of the workshop, 52 participants submitted evaluation forms that included answers to one or more questions. The consultant team organized the comments into categories.

In general the feedback is positive. There are, however, several comments about the lack of opportunity for participants to ask and receive answers to questions about data and assumptions presented during the plenary session before participants were convened in breakout groups. Participants generally found the small groups effective and useful. However, some did voice concerns over representation of people from outside of the Hunter Mill Road corridor. Finally, the groups were concerned (?) by how and if points of consensus would be reported.

The comments are presented unedited and have been assigned to general categories. The numbers in parentheses following some statements indicate the number of people who expressed that sentiment.

### **1. Did you find the presentation about the Comprehensive Plan and the Hunter Mill Road Study Area informative? Why or why not?**

#### **Yes, the presentation worked**

1. It was a good consolidation of the majority of info. Helpful to people who had never been to previous meetings.
2. Very good—especially Maryann—although it was redundant for those of us who have attended task force meetings.
3. Very informative even though I am familiar with zoning in the area.
4. Yes (6)
5. Yes and no—we did well on general principles—still find it hard to be specific when applied to our area. Do want more mechanisms to gather public input.
6. Yes, but time not built in for questions on the presentation.
7. Yes, informative as far as it went. But it should have built in more time for clarifying questions from audience so the group would have felt they were not being led around.
8. Yes, the PowerPoint was good until rude people interrupted the speakers.
9. Yes. A fair summary.
10. Yes. Informative overview.
11. Yes. It made clear that roads are at capacity schools are at capacity, and we have insufficient parkland. Why are we talking about increasing density.
12. Yes. It was very useful for those of use who had little info to start. Well done presentation.
13. Mostly



14. Outstanding—open, friendly & kind

**Presentation was not clear or adequate**

1. It was adequate—information was already available to those involved in the process. No need just to read a PowerPoint.
2. It was informative only in a very basic way. I feel much information that could have said was not said.
3. It was informative, though I had seen most of it at the last task force meeting.
4. It was adequate—information was already available to those involved in the process. No need just to read a PowerPoint.
5. Also needed a key to some of the acronyms.
6. Informative as far as it went. It didn't fully explain why the study was undertaken or who will profit from an increased density in the study area.
7. Informative but biased—presenter did have a point of view.
8. It was not detailed enough.
9. It would be easier to have the speaker use a pointer and point to areas being discussed.
10. Large print blow ups would help.
11. I wish we could ask them why we would want anything but the 1st option less housing.
12. Presentation focused on this property not wider context, e.g., Herndon
13. Q&A sessions, abt ½ h, should've been planned just to clarify pts of confusion w/respect to the planned power pt presentation
14. Semi. I was very disappointed that the Q&A at the front was so minimal & facts to back the figures weren't clear. I was surprised that the person doing them first presentation hadn't researched better—at least to know street names & the condition of Lake fx facilities.
15. Somewhat (2)
16. Somewhat helpful—but visual need to be blown up—easier to see
17. Somewhat—but there needs to be more dialog between the people not just constant lectures—there should be an opportunity for immediate dialog.
18. The participation didn't provide the reasons for changing the comprehensive plan.
19. The presentation was appreciated and informative. It would be good to change some of the "planner" jargon to plainer English

**Presentation was uninformative or not useful**

1. Found it boring, long-winded & uninformative
2. Too short. Too little time to ask qualifying questions.
3. No, it was a total waste of time
4. No—it was misleading and incomplete
5. No—know most of it. Some misinformation
6. No—redundant—most was a repetitive waste of time probably in an effort to APPEAR as if this process is unbiased
7. No—too rushed—presenter Ms. Mariana Gardner was rude could not answer simple

- questions; totally unprepared
8. Lousy. What is the current plan? Why change? I felt totally railroaded by supervisors, the marketing company and the implication that developers are deciding my future
  9. Seen it before. Presenter are not neutral and unfamiliar with area
  10. The process is backwards. You can't put out such a negative proposal (2400 hours) and then expect people to not be upset. Your visioning should have come first! You are creating this problem, no the other way around.

**Other**

1. Didn't attend
2. I don't know how to deal with rudeness of people. Maybe set up ground rules as people come in. I think the presentation was as good as possible
3. N/A
4. Our facilitator—worked well with group. Missed the slides.

**2. Did your group accomplish the tasks set forth in the breakout session? Did the discussions reflect a wide variety of ideas and viewpoints?**

**Process**

1. Yes too many to detail here but informative
2. Yes, although there were 2 people that disagreed on affordable housing & walked out rather than participate on themes
3. Yes, but conclusion against growth strongly held by all participants
4. Yes, but facilitator a bit scattered brained! Much wasted time.
5. Yes, group 9 was exceptional
6. Yes, however, most of the viewpoints expressed were similar; against the variances
7. Yes. Changes as in transportation.
8. Yes. Everyone got a chance to speak (& did). There were varying views (& I felt everyone listened)
9. Yes. No, it was obviously consensual after 15 minutes
10. Yes. Yes. (2)
11. Yes (10)
12. Yes—although some people didn't even live in Fairfax County—why?
13. Yes—but one thing emerged—maintain the current comprehensive plan
14. Yes—this was good. Please read through all and prioritize
15. Yes—we had a lot of good debate with a number of viewpoints.
16. A) Yes. B) No. Our community has previously clarified its vision and it is very focused not broad.
17. Basically, did accomplish the tasks
18. Better than expected—at least they pretended to listen to the citizens—usually Fairfax County gov't doesn't even make a pretense of listening.
19. Excellent job. Well done. Room 128.
20. Goal accomplished.
21. I believe so.

22. I think so.
23. They accomplished the tasks set forth in the breakout—but that doesn't mean they accomplished what the people need.
24. Were specific to start with
25. Small group did accomplish the tasks.
26. We were all united in our desire to see the current comprehensive plan implemented for this area, as is! Yes, we accomplished the tasks.
27. We did. The group was largely of the same view and vision. We like the area as it is and are opposed to higher density development or introducing commercial or retail in the area.

**Decisions and decision making**

1. Everyone in our group shared the same ideas and concerns. We all feel the current comprehensive plan be maintained.
2. Fairly uniform—transportation is a problem. Over development is a problem, County supervisor didn't listen to the public; developer buy what they want.
3. Everyone in our group shared the same ideas and concerns. We all feel the current comprehensive plan be maintained.
4. The discussion reflected the viewpoints and ideas of all those present, though the variety was not wide as we largely shared the same viewpoints.
5. The views were surprisingly unanimous—maintain current comprehensive plan.
6. There was general agreement.
7. There was not a great diversity of opinion, and the biggest issue was being sure how to include minority opinions in the vision, when the majority opinion was so overwhelming
8. We were all united in our desire to see the current comprehensive plan implemented for this area, as is! Yes, we accomplished the tasks.

**Participation**

1. Concern exists about acceptance of the people participating
2. Kathryn Martin very good facilitator.
3. Was this a meeting to get information from H.M. Road area? Or very wide area? We had 2 people from outside area providing comments
4. No. Also the developer had a paid participant in our group, and his 1 view was taken as equally weighted with all other participants who had a different view.
5. Partially yes at the end. Some influence by facilitators to form their plan not ours.
6. Was this a meeting to get information from H.M. Road area? Or very wide area? We had 2 people from outside area providing comments, which makes it appear on our sheets as though community members feel ways that they do not.

**3. How well did this meeting meet your expectations? Were the goals laid out at the beginning of the meeting accomplished?**

**Met expectations**

1. Better than expected (2)
2. Fine, goals met.
3. Good (2)
4. It met my expectations
5. Bernadette as a facilitator is terrific.
6. Met expectations
7. Very well in both accounts
8. Went smoother than I expected
9. Yes, but we still don't know the purpose of all the future dates
10. Yes, pretty much. Now we need to be kept informed and polled again/again prior to more development plans being initiated
11. Yes. And the facilitators tried to achieve it. Facilitators were not well trained in managing this kind of conflict
12. Yes (9)
13. Yes—I was happily surprised
14. Very well in both accounts
15. Reasonably well. However, it was a major mistake not to answer the questions of the 4 or 5 people waiting in line.
16. Satisfactorily met expectations within the meeting. The key will be whether what gets reported up reflects what was actually said or gets edited by the consultant
17. The meeting met my expectations I only hope our viewpoints will be
18. The meeting went well. I hope our voices don't fall of deaf ears!
19. The meeting—no, but the breakout session did meet my expectations—although I question whether or not it will ultimately make a difference.
20. Reasonably well. However, it was a major mistake not to answer the questions of the 4 or 5 people waiting in line.
21. I learned a fair amount. Clearly the greatest # of participants supported current land use requirements (highest # of checks of over 70 items went to the "maintaining current zoning requirements")
22. Facilitator was excellent "Bernadette."

**Plenary**

1. Audience chastised by Ms. Hudgins. Problematic to focus counties hopes & fears in this one property when there are bigger issues
2. Did not meet my expectations. Enjoyed my neighbors. Since this was one of the few rare appearances of our elected reps. They should have definitely taken questions.
3. Disingenuous to talk, and refuse input from group at cutting open questions off by 5 people to "get back" onto the beginning schedule was not a good way to begin the meeting.
4. Plenary Q&A avoided

5. Steve Lee had only 5 people in line to ask questions—and would not allow them to ask them, which would not have added substantially to the time taken.

#### Expectations were not met

1. Harriett was too opinionated—interrupted discussion as not talking in turn
2. I feel that the questions were designed to collect input in a way that could be used to support any outcome—even those outcomes not desired by the participant.
3. I felt that all of the questions asked required present citizens to assume greater development
4. I'm concerned citizen impact is not being given time to be heard by the entire task force
5. I'm not sure anything was accomplished
6. It was distracting to have two groups in one room. There were 16 people divided to 2 groups, I would rather have been able to listen to the thoughts all 16 people,
7. It would be an effective exercise only if the board truly considers this input
8. Less painful and adversarial
9. No. many more meetings req w/details of citz impact, environmental considerations of area, etc—affordable housing
10. Not really. The bigger "agenda" was never really made clear
11. Not sure why it was needed. Did meet my goals
12. People failed to discuss the real issues of how to mange growth. We did not achieve our goals
13. The questions were not consistent with the goals. They did not deal with the specific plan proposed.
14. This process is nibbling around the edges of this since we are not talking about what is really important
15. Two facilitators I observed, frankly, added to the feeling that county does not want to hear from public.

#### 4. Were the meeting logistics effective? (i.e., Were the materials informative? Was the meeting location easy to find?)

##### Meeting Effectiveness

1. All good
2. By and large yes.
3. Good location
4. Good!
5. Location—great. Material—somewhat informative but confusing because is showed more than HMR corridor
6. Logistics were fine, but the group had a distrust of the intentions of many of the questions
7. Materials has too many abbreviations. Rest was good.
8. Meeting areas easy to find. It would be useful for the ??? to institute a list-serve for specific topics that are of interest to citizens—Hunter Mill Special Study being one

## VISION DOCUMENT

### Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study

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#### Section 6 Visioning Workshop

9. Not enough material. Location fine.
10. No—too much attempted to be accomplished
11. OK
12. OK for the limitations of the format
13. OK—and OK
14. OK—better signage outside would be a good idea
- Overall the people who were for the plan were not heard & when it came down to theme my thoughts were not considered
15. Semi—the figures are suspect. Ex: school stats based on “projections for 2004-2008” are obviously old
16. The materials were informative and the location was easy to find (well-signed!)
17. The work groups yes. Good location of meeting.
18. There was a lot of work which all boiled down to stick with the current comprehensive plan. It was like taking the long way to get to a destination.
19. Two breakout groups sharing one classroom in a high school with numerous additional classrooms is ridiculous and more poor planning and implementation
20. Wonderful
21. Yes (17)
22. Yes to all (4)
23. Yes, fine
24. Yes, good location. It would helpful to have more room for breakouts
25. Yes. No.
26. Yes. Yes. Facilitator—Steve needs to pull the microphone away from his lips—his mouth is too close to the microphone (for future ref). Took too long to kick-off the opening session! (40 minutes delay)
27. Yes—except no microphone for Q&A
28. Yes—wish it could have gone a little faster

The completed evaluation forms are in Appendix \_\_\_\_.

## Open House

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## Focus Groups

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Focus groups are useful in public engagement processes, such as a visioning process, because they allow the facilitator to test questions for the visioning workshop to ensure that they are framed appropriately and are inclusive enough to elicit rich, useful information from visioning process participants. Focus groups are intentionally designed to receive input from a limited number of people.

Between September 28 and October 5, six stakeholder focus groups were convened. Each focus group met for one 90-minute telephone session and was facilitated by CirclePoint. The focus group questions are included on Appendix \_\_\_\_ and were provided to participants before the focus group session. A summary of the focus groups appears below.

Six focus groups were held:

1. Homeowners
2. Businesses and employers
3. Pedestrian, bicyclists, and equestrians
4. Faith communities
5. School communities—selected elementary schools that are in the Madison school pyramid and that are closest to the subject area or are otherwise nearby
6. County advisory boards and commissions

Each focus group was designed to include only stakeholders from one of the six categories. Some individuals might fit in several categories but participated in only one focus group. By design, members of individual focus groups should have common interests but may offer different perspectives on the issues.

### Focus Group Selection Process

- Task Force members and the county project staff made recommendations for focus group participants.
- Some citizens suggested people or contacts from various groups or nominated themselves. There was an attempt to accommodate those citizens if possible.
- In addition, other county employees were asked to suggest people they work with on county boards and commissions.
- The county staff also suggested other potential focus group members from among individuals and groups active in the community.



**Focus Group Participants****Homeowner Associations****September 28, 2005 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

NAME AFFILIATION		INVITED	CONFIRMED	PARTICIPATED
Vickie McCormick	Victoria Farms			
Mike Powers	Hunter Mill Estates			
Jane Rachel	Hunter View Arms/Colvin			
David Dantzler	Hunter Station			
Zena Starr	Tamarack			
Bette Greenspan	Avon Park			
Jim Barrett	Wayside			
Keith Compton	Equestrian Park			
Carol Dowd	Crowell Road			

**Pedestrians, Bicyclists & Equestrians****September 29, 2005 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

NAME AFFILIATION		INVITED	CONFIRMED	PARTICIPATED
Wade Smith	Non-motorized Transportation Committee			
Linda Byrne	Equestrian			
Beverly Dickerson	Equestrian			
Dennis Frew	Washington Area Bicyclists			
Cristy Terry	Pedestrian			
William Boule	Fairfax County Park Authority, Hunter Mill			
Stephen Cerny	Non-motorized transportation			
Allen Nagin	Potomac Peddlers			
Kevin O'Connor	Fairfax4Horses			
John Byrne	Equestrian			

# VISION DOCUMENT

## Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study

### Section 8 Focus Groups

#### School Communities

September 29, 2005 from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

NAME	AFFILIATION	INVITED	CONFIRMED	PARTICIPATED
Sandra Furick	Colvin Run Elementary			
Salvador Rivera	Flint Hill Elementary			
Frank Bensinger	Forest Edge Elementary			
Dr. Beth English	Sunrise Valley Elementary			
Ellen Cury	Terraset Elementary			
Jeanette Martino	Westbriar Elementary			
Dr. Anita O'Brien	Wolftrap Elementary			
Deborah Jackson	Langston Hughes Middle School			
Mark Greenfelder	Thoreau Middle School			
Mark A. Merrell	James Madison High			
Bruce Butler	South Lakes High			
Bert Schreibstien	Edlin			
Jo A. S. Thoburn	Fairfax Christian			
Judith Beattie	Hunter Mill Country Day School			
Susan Cason	PTA			
Betty Ann Dobrenz	PTA			
Joda Coolidge	PTA			
Jennifer DeCamp	PTA			
Dianne Rose	Terraset Elementary PTA			
Susan Thomas	PTA			
Kristin Bonacci	PTA			
Joan Burkhardt	PTA			
Leslie or Chris Vereide	PTA			
Bettina Lawton	PTA			
Maria Allen	PTA			
Betty Ann Dobrenz	PTA			
Joda Coolidge	PTA			
Susan Thomas	PTA			
Kristin Bonacci	PTA			
Nina Graves	Wolftrap Elementary, PTA			
Chuck Veatch	Parent			
Joni Reich	Sallie Mae			
Michael Guthrie	Long and Foster			
Rosemarie Pelletier	Northern Virginia Community College			
Justina Johnson Head	Sunrise Valley, Oakton and Thoreau Parent			

# VISION DOCUMENT

## Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study

### Section 8 Focus Groups

#### Businesses and Employers

October 4, 2005 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

NAME	AFFILIATION	INVITED	CONFIRMED	PARTICIPATED
William Lecos	Fairfax Chamber of Commerce			
Tracey White	Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce			
Tom Hirst	Lake Fairfax Business Park			
Jake Stroman	Boston Properties			
Chris Walker	Parkridge Center			
Matt Brennan	Brennan and Waite			
Joni Reich	Sallie Mae			
Bill Adams	Reston Hospital			
Donna Miller	Miller Musmar			
David DeMarco	SE Region Hovnanian			
Lynn Gilmore	Northrop Grumman			
Michael Batt	Microsoft			
Chris Lessard	Lessard Architectural Group			
Linda Mallison	Sugar Oak			
Michael Carlin	Access Point Public Affairs			
Kim Guarino	Hinge			
Catherine Riley	Fairfax County Economic Development Authority			
Stephen Fuller	George Mason University			
Holli Ploog	Unisys			
Jim Kepler	Data Networks Corporation			
Joe Ritchey	Prospective, Inc.			
Ron Christian	Lutheran Housing Organization			
William Keefe	Walsh Colucci			
Bruce Bennett	Hunter Mill Citizen's Association			

## VISION DOCUMENT

### Hunter Mill Road Area Special Study

#### Section 8 Focus Groups

#### County Advisory Boards & Commissions October 4, 2005 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

NAME	AFFILIATION	INVITED	CONFIRMED	PARTICIPATED
David Olin	History Commissioner, Dranesville			
Barbara Naef	History Commissioner, at-Large			
Elise Murray	History Commissioner, Hunter Mill/ARB			
Bruce Bennett	Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming			
Edythe Frankel	Hunter Mill Land Use Committee			
Rebecca Cate	Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations			
Brain Deery	Transportation Advisory Committee, Dranesville			
Stuart Schwartz	Coalition for Smarter Growth			
Stephen Cerny	Affordable Housing			
Jim Barrett	Transportation need committee name			
John Callaghan	Housing committee name please			
Fran Steinbauer	Housing committee name please			
Stella Koch	Environmental Quality Advisory Council			

#### Faith Communities

October 5, 2005 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

NAME	AFFILIATION	INVITED	CONFIRMED	PARTICIPATED
Kerrie Wilson	Reston Interfaith			
Barbara Reid	Cartersville Baptist Church			
Amos Dodge	International Church of the Four Square Gospel/Capital Church			
James Ferguson	Reston Presbyterian Church			
Bill Welch	Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax			
Rabbi Robert Nosanchuck	Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation			
Sterling Wilcox	Oakton United Methodist Church			
Jean Lentz	Unity of Fairfax Church			
	Reston Bible Church			
	United Christian Parish			
	St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church			
	Oakbrook Church			
	Church of Jesus of Latter Day Saints			
	Washington Plaza Baptist Church			
	Good Shepard Lutheran Church			
	St. Anne's Episcopal Church			
	Community Bible Study Church			

## **Focus Group Comment Summaries**

AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE

Homeowners

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Businesses and employers

Pedestrian, bicyclists, and equestrians

R

Faith communities

School communities

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County advisory boards and commissions

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## Appendices

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- A. Compilation of Comments**
- B. Summary of Breakout Group Participants**

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